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To: Rick Breitenbach
From: Conner Everts, P.O.W.E.R. (Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform)
Re: EIS/EIR-Water Use Efficiency Component

Included are my comments based on participation at the CALFED water efficiency committee (until it stopped meeting over AG disruptions over Urban conservation), Public Hearings in Pasadena and Sacramento, participation with the CUWCC. I do want to thank Rick Soehren, of your staff, for his help.

The single most important comment I have is the unrealistic range of numbers on 5-51. None of these numbers reflect the true cost I have experienced from 20 years of implementing conservation programs. Not only is the potential for conservation state wide far greater than listed in this report but the cost far lower. Already these numbers have been used by the large Urban agencies to justify the building of storage-I would suggest to use real numbers based on real experience and I would be happy to help in that effort.

As a now approaching the status of an elder conservationist I would like to express my concern that the demand side option that comprehensive programs offer to the seemingly complex California Water puzzle. Having worked through the 2 long droughts of the last twenty years I have seen the opportunities presented by these "windows on the future" and only hope that we now recognize our potential to provide the policy decisions that will make a difference and not recreate our ongoing dilemma. CALFED should advance us from our compelling challenges with competing water interests and to a new the future of our State. It reminds me that the work of water efficiency is never done and always changing with new technologies.

My perspective is somewhat unique as a working conservationist, who was amongst other jobs the Drought Coordinator for the City of Pasadena's Power and Water Department in 1990 and worked with a staff of 17, all of whom but one have been laid off because of Energy Deregulation. I worked with the City of Burbank, who's Utility General Manager was quoted in the local paper saying conservation should be the handing out of comic books and PR. I was elected to the Casitas Municipal Water District and was President of the local Groundwater Agency in Ojai, where ranchers were reluctant to save when the bank was full, but happy when their first water meters turned out to be management tools. I still serve on the Board of POWER, Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform, providing a forum for water policy solutions. It is in that capacity I have been collecting information on state wide conservation programs for the POWER journal and have been dismayed by the reduction of conservation programs.

I have seen a conservation ethic sweep through the populous through each drought as they lead the agencies rather than the other way around. I have seen the Community Based Organizations challenge water wholesalers, provide huge saving and jobs with local economic development.

What I fail to see is the State and local agencies complete the connection between the potential for conjunctive use with groundwater, local runoff, reclaimed water and true comprehensive efficiency and water demand side programs. Without the mandatory enforcement of the basic or Best Management Practices through the CUWCC, without enforcement of the voluntary groundwater management of AB3030 and without any tie between land use policy and available water supply we will continue to ignore the people of this State. These people care and want something for their personal efforts rather than continued higher bills and conflicting claims about water quality. These are long term decisions and I hope you listen to the people that came forward to you today to tell you the story of what we can do and have done in Southern California and think of the implications of ignoring the will of the people who both voted down the peripheral canal in the eighties and voted for environmental restoration with Prop. 204.

Thank you,

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